

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application. Please cancel claims 11, 13, 15, and 19-21 without prejudice. Please amend claims 7, 12, 14, and 17-18 as indicated. Claims 22 and 23 are new.

Listing of Claims

1-6. Previously Cancelled.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment for protection of a plant against a virus of the tobacco mosaic or a phytopathogenic agent comprising:

selecting a sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide having a polymerization degree from 4 to 100 α -L fucose units;

forming an aqueous solution having a concentration of the sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide of at least 10 mg/l; and

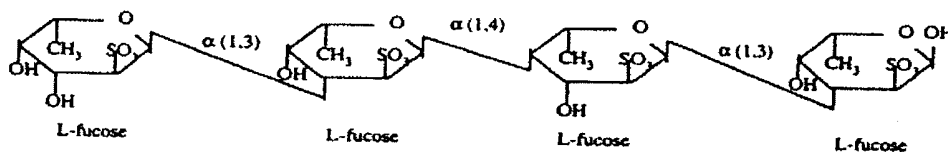
applying the solution to the plant to be treated to stimulate a direct elicitor effect of defense reactions in the treated plant.

8-10. Previously Cancelled.

11. Cancelled

12. (Currently Amended) The method of treatment according to Claim 7, wherein the sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide has the following structure I:

I

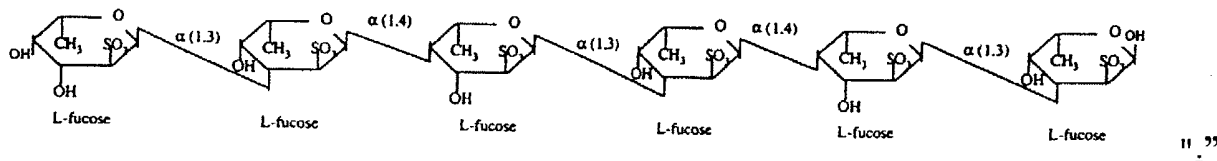


" "

13. Cancelled.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of treatment according to Claim 7, wherein the sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide has the following structure II:

II



15. Cancelled.

16. (Previously Submitted) The method of treatment according to Claim 7, wherein the sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide is obtained by a process comprising an enzymatic hydrolysis step wherein at least one endofucanase obtained from a bacterium strain deposited under the number 12171 in the collection DSMZ is used.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of treatment according to Claim 7, wherein the sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide is obtained by a process comprising an enzymatic hydrolysis step wherein at least one endofucanase containing sequences analogous to a peptide of SEQ ID No. 2, SEQ ID No. 3, SEQ ID No. 4, or SEQ ID No. 6 is used.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of treatment according to Claim 7, wherein the plant ~~subjected to treatment~~ is tobacco.

19-21. Cancelled.

22. (New) The method of treatment according to Claim 7, wherein the plant is wheat.

23. (New) The method of treatment according to Claim 7, wherein the plant is parsley.